



# The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition  
for Literacy

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## NMCL has a Newsletter Again!

We used to have one. Then we decided that folks could catch up on what's going on through our web page. Well, it isn't happening. You're visiting the web site, but for other kinds of information, so our Board has decided that there's really no way to replace a true-blue newsletter. We will put this on the web, but will also mail to those who request it. Everyone who can, will receive this by Email. We want you to contact us with ideas, stories, letters to the editor, etc.

We receive some of your newsletters by mail or over the Internet. We'd like to share some of your most interesting articles with the entire state: have we your permission? Please let us know if you object; otherwise, your good newsletter is our fare game! We, of course, would credit your newsletter and program. How else will the whole state know what you're doing?

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**The PPDA, an association of Literacy Program Directors**, will report on their first meeting, scheduled for March 2 and 3, in Santa Fe soon after the meeting. Rather than wait until the next issue of *The NMCL Report*, you will be sent a brief summary of the meeting electronically. This organization was created by NMCL to respond to a need for a higher profile for all programs, both for purposes of future funding, and recruitment. The association will represent everyone; it's membership is decided simply by who can attend all four meetings scheduled in a year. That attendance is critical in mounting an aggressive approach to raising aware-



NMCL Board members: (L- R) Ernest Padilla, Dr. Elizabeth Gordon, Dorothy Redd, Harry Pearson, Gary Pierson, Doris Evans, Ellen Harbaugh, Sally Harper

ness. Everyone will benefit. Everyone will have a chance to serve beginning in March of each year. The association will not make policy decisions; they will exist only to promote literacy.

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## The Search for Additional Funding

The NMCL's quest for additional funding for distribution to literacy programs state-wide never ceases. At this time, however, our efforts step up as we face an opportunity to appeal to the Legislature to increase their investment in adult and family literacy for New Mexico.

The Governor's office has been

very supportive, seeing the connection between adult literacy, successful experiences in community colleges and ABE. Without strong literacy skills, New Mexicans will struggle to find and keep jobs. Without a literate workforce, New Mexico will continue to be bypassed by many kinds of industry.

We ask that the Legislature extend it's one-time special allocation of \$200,000 to be a permanent part of our annual appropriation. Four new programs have been given a start, and most programs either received full funding or increased funding for aggressive special projects. We'd like to do it again next year.





## Another NMCL Annual Meeting



The Board of NMCL has decided that we didn't get it done this time 'round and for many reasons, we will go back to our original tradition of having our Annual Meeting in June, the official end of our fiscal year.

We have enjoyed co-sponsoring the NMAEA/NMCL Joint Annual Meetings, and feel that our meetings together have served a very important purpose. We see ourselves as colleagues and we see the need to support and work with each other. Working together is the only way we can each serve our students completely. There is no room for a divide, when it comes to the

needs of adult learners, and services should be seamless.

The (second) Annual Meeting will be held in Rio Rancho at the Hilton Garden Inn, June 3rd. You will get complete information shortly. There will be activities for those who arrive on the afternoon of the 2nd and that evening, and then a general meeting, formal luncheon, and workshops on Friday, the 3rd. We hope you can plan to come, especially if you weren't able to come to the meeting in Ruidoso. We urge you to continue to work with ABE institutions in your regions, and support them and the NMCL with critical legislation in

the future. Check our web page for information on bills to watch and support. When you call the office of a legislator, your message is counted. Sheer numbers of phone calls one way or another on an issue can help legislators know what their constituencies want and expect from them. It really does matter and it only takes a few minutes of your time.

*"The only degree you need is a degree of caring"*  
**Ruth Colvin**

*"Each one teach one"*  
**Frank Laubach**

## The Postcard Campaign

We received great response to our postcard campaign. NMCL sent a request email to all programs asking that you send a postcard for every student and every volunteer coming into your program. The postcards go to your legislators, to remind them that you are serving your community and that there is demand for what you do! Those of you who have sent postcards will have done a lot to raise awareness of your own program

with people who have the power to keep you funded. It just makes sense to not drop the ball on this project. We can't wait to contact our legislators just before each session begins; it must be a year-round initiative. When issues of illiteracy come up, your legislator should immediately think of the work you do in your town and county. The name of your program and NMCL should become very familiar with those who have the power to keep

services flowing. Volunteer tutors contributed 111,069 hours to programs in '03-'04. The economic value of that contribution amounts to about \$1,782,657.00.

If you need more information about the postcard campaign or if you've gone through your postcards and want more, just let us know. We'll get them to you in a few days.



First Lady, Mrs. Barbara Richardson

## The First Lady Lends Her Support to Literacy

The NMCL has been quite overwhelmed with the level of support we have received from First Lady, Barbara Richardson, and this administration. As a bipartisan organization, we have been privileged to receive warm and helpful acceptance from each new administration, and we are so very grateful that the Richardsons, too, see the value of literacy as they look at issues of poverty, health care, domestic

violence, substance abuse, child abuse and the many other social illnesses they have taken on. They see the thread of illiteracy that weaves through the lives of many troubled individuals. When the Qwest Foundation announced that they wanted to provide funding to a few of the most effective state-wide non-profit organization as part of their effort to improve the lives of Qwest customers, the First

Lady recommended the NMCL as one of several high-impact non-profit organizations worthy of substantial help. As a result of her recommendation, the NMCL was able to send in a grant proposal and receive \$50,000 to help expand literacy services in New Mexico. It is important to note that it was not an easy decision, as there are many deserving organizations and we count ourselves very fortunate.



## Farewell but not Goodbye to Sen. Don Kidd

For the 12 years that retired Senator Don Kidd (Carlsbad), served in the Legislature, he always supported the NMCL. At times when we were virtually ignored in the shuffle of posturing and deals, Senator Kidd kept us before the body politic, making sure we had a fair shot at our funding. In helping us all those years, he helped you, too. Without Sen. Kidd, we may have faded away on many different occasions. Some of you would have faded away along with us; others would have had a hard time replacing the funding we were able to provide.

On February 10th, during ABE/

Literacy Day at the Roundhouse, a Memorial for Senator Kidd was read at the Rotunda. That memorial was written by the NMCL and it reflected the admiration and gratitude we feel for this great man.

Even after retirement, Senator Kidd continues to help us and you! We waited three months for a past-due contract from a state agency, while our funds virtually ran out! When it looked as though you would never receive your reimbursements and we would be laid off, Senator Kidd found funding to loan us until the state came through. We will always be grateful to

Senator Kidd, and it is unlikely that we will ever stop looking to him for advice and assistance.

Senator Kidd was heard saying, "If you give people access, they can do wonderful things." He has, in fact, made a career of giving everyday people access.

You are our hero, Senator Kidd! Thank you.



Senator Don Kidd

## Two Programs Accredited by ProLiteracy

Round two of Accreditation has begun and New Mexico programs meet the challenge. Once an LVA initiative, accreditation is now a ProLiteracy initiative, and stronger than ever. Basically unchanged, the standards and qualifications are achievable, but require a great amount of organization to prepare for. **ReadWest, of Rio Rancho and Literacy Volunteers of Dona Ana County** have just been re-accredited, having first received

accreditation three years ago. **Valencia County Literacy Council and Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe** will soon be interviewed for re-accreditation. Our congratulations to ReadWest and LV Dona Ana County. As anyone can tell you who has been through the accreditation process, it's very demanding of one's organizational skills. The process both trains a director (and board, too), and assesses the program. Once you have

achieved the requirements of accreditation, you have forever guaranteed the quality of your program, for it includes everything you do as an administrator. That guarantee, however, requires that you maintain a procedures manual so that whoever replaces you can continue the process you have begun.

*Accreditation gives credibility to volunteer programs. We are too often thought of as amateurs. With accreditation, we are recognized as the professionals we are.*

## New Mexico Books and More

NM Books and More, an experimental co-op bookstore open for the Christmas season only at Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque, presented three checks to local charities on January 25th at the Mall. The store featured books from and about New Mexico and was operated with all volunteer help. The original plan for the store was to give all store profits to local literacy projects. The NMCL received a

check for \$1000 and ReadWest received \$3,500. We're pretty certain that Susan, from ReadWest, must have mentioned us! The BASE Program, a cottonwood Mall charity also received \$1000.

What a great idea, and wonderful way to raise funds for a literacy program! Paul Rhettts, LPD Press, and Barbe Awalt, Tradition Revista, were the developers of this project. Is there any-

one in your town who might do something similar for you? The store would be open only for the Christmas season, have something special that people would like to purchase for Christmas, run by volunteers, rent donated by a mall, and proceeds going to you. What a concept!





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Meet Bernard, NMCL's office toad mascot.

*"The Vision of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy is to create a pathway to the future for New Mexicans through literacy."*

*"The Mission of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy is to coordinate, expand, and enhance adult and intergenerational literacy services in the state of New Mexico."*



## The NMCL Board of Directors

The NMCL has always tried to have board members representing all regions of the state. It hasn't always been possible, but we do strive for good coverage and representation for the great state of New Mexico. Our board is unpaid and their expenses come out of their own pockets. Many miles of travel to board meetings, long distance calls, and much of their personal time is devoted to literacy issues and the management of this organization.

With busy lives and many other obligations, they have always served judiciously and have been responsible stewards of the affairs of the NMCL. We thank them. We hope you will, too, at the Annual Meeting in June.

Bruce Donisthorpe  
Business Consultant  
Albuquerque

Doris Evans  
Volunteer Tutor  
Farmington,

Elba Garcia-Burke  
Consultant  
Las Cruces

Dr. Elizabeth Gordon  
Consultant/Research Scientist  
Carlsbad

Alma Green  
Socorro

Ellen Harbaugh  
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Ernest Padilla  
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Linda Waterman  
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